

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1           1.       A method for providing a shared window for entering commands  
2 into a local computer system, wherein the shared window can be shared with a  
3 remote user who can input data into the shared window from a remote computer  
4 system subject to access control, the method comprising:

5           receiving a command from the remote user on the remote computer  
6 system;

7           wherein the command is directed toward the local computer system in  
8 order to operate the local computer system;

9           passing the command through a filtering process;

10          if the command passes the filtering process, executing the command on the  
11 local computer system;

12          displaying the command on the shared window on the local computer  
13 system so that a local user can view the command; and

14          allowing the command to be displayed on a remote copy of the shared  
15 window on the remote computer system, so that the remote user can view the  
16 command.

1           2.       The method of claim 1, wherein if the shared window is in an  
2 approval mode, the filtering process involves:

3           allowing the local user of the local computer system to approve the  
4 command; and

5           if the local user approves the command, allowing the command to pass the  
6 filtering process.



1           9.     The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a second  
2 command from a second remote user on a second remote computer system.

1           10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the filtering process takes place on  
2 at least one of:

3           the remote computer system;

4           the local computer system; and

5           a shared server that is separate from the remote computer system and the  
6 local computer system.

1           11.    The method of claim 1, wherein the command is in the form of  
2 character input.

1           12.    The method of claim 1, wherein the command is in the form of an  
2 action applied to a graphical user interface.

1           13.    A computer-readable storage medium storing instructions that  
2 when executed by a computer cause the computer to perform a method for  
3 providing a shared window for entering commands into a local computer system,  
4 wherein the shared window can be shared with a remote user who can input data  
5 into the shared window from a remote computer system subject to access control,  
6 the method comprising:  
7           receiving a command from the remote user on the remote computer  
8 system;  
9           wherein the command is directed toward the local computer system in  
10 order to operate the local computer system;

11 passing the command through a filtering process;  
12 if the command passes the filtering process, executing the command on the  
13 local computer system;  
14 displaying the command on the shared window on the local computer  
15 system so that a local user can view the command; and  
16 allowing the command to be displayed on a remote copy of the shared  
17 window on the remote computer system, so that the remote user can view the  
18 command.

1 14. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein if the  
2 shared window is in an approval mode, the filtering process involves:  
3 allowing the local user of the local computer system to approve the  
4 command; and  
5 if the local user approves the command, allowing the command to pass the  
6 filtering process.

1 15. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein if the  
2 shared window is in a view-only mode, no commands received from the remote  
3 user are allowed to pass the filtering process.

1 16. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein if the  
2 shared window is in an execute mode, all commands received from the remote  
3 user are allowed to pass the filtering process.

1 17. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein if the  
2 shared window is in a safe command mode, commands from a pre-specified list of  
3 safe commands are allowed to pass the filtering process.

1           18.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17, wherein if the  
2     shared window is in a safe command mode and the command is not from the pre-  
3     specified list of safe commands, the method further comprises:

4                 allowing the local user of the local computer system to approve the  
5     command; and

6                 if the local user approves the command, allowing the command to pass the  
7     filtering process.

1           19.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein  
2     commands from different users appear in different colors on the shared window.

1           20.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein  
2     allowing the command to be displayed on the remote copy of the shared window  
3     on the remote computer system involves sending an update for the shared window  
4     from the local computer system to the remote computer system, wherein the  
5     update includes the command.

1           21.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the  
2     method further comprises receiving a second command from a second remote user  
3     on a second remote computer system.

1           22.     The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the  
2     filtering process takes place on at least one of:

3                 the remote computer system;

4                 the local computer system; and

5 a shared server that is separate from the remote computer system and the  
6 local computer system.

1 23. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the  
2 command is in the form of character input.

1 24. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, wherein the  
2 command is in the form of an action applied to a graphical user interface.

1 25. An apparatus that provides a shared window for entering  
2 commands into a local computer system, wherein the shared window can be  
3 shared with a remote user who can input data into the shared window from a  
4 remote computer system subject to access control, the apparatus comprising:  
5 a receiving mechanism that is configured to receive a command from the  
6 remote user on the remote computer system;  
7 wherein the command is directed toward the local computer system in  
8 order to operate the local computer system;  
9 a filtering mechanism that is configured to pass the command through a  
10 filtering process, and to execute the command on the local computer system if the  
11 command passes the filtering process; and  
12 a display mechanism that is configured to display the command on the  
13 shared window on the local computer system so that a local user can view the  
14 command;  
15 wherein the display mechanism is configured to allow the command to be  
16 displayed on a remote copy of the shared window on the remote computer system,  
17 so that the remote user can view the command.



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1           31.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the display mechanism is  
2 configured to display commands from different users in different colors on the  
3 shared window.

1           32.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the display mechanism is  
2 configured to send an update for the shared window from the local computer  
3 system to the remote computer system, wherein the update includes the command.

1           33.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the receiving mechanism is  
2 configured to receive a second command from a second remote user on a second  
3 remote computer system.

1           34.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the filtering mechanism is  
2 located on at least one of:  
3           the remote computer system;  
4           the local computer system; and  
5           a shared server that is separate from the remote computer system and the  
6 local computer system.

1           35.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the command is in the form of  
2 character input.

1           36.    The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the command is in the form of  
2 an action applied to a graphical user interface.